

Remarks

1. Amendments

By the present Amendment, claims 1 and 9 have been amended. Upon entry of the present Amendment, claims 1 to 18 will be pending in the application.

2. Comments

Paragraph 2: objection under 37 CFR 1.75(d)(1) and MPEP#608.01(o)

It is respectfully submitted that the amendments to the claims overcome this rejection.

Paragraph 4: rejection of claims 1-18 under 35U.S.C. 112, first paragraph

It is respectfully submitted that the amendments to the claims overcome this rejection.

Paragraph 6: rejection of claims 1-3, 6-8 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Okada et al.(US-6,120,983), Tsuzuki (US-5,677,121), Siga (US-4,332,889), Tsukada (2002/0058220A1), Winslow et al (US 5,891,615) and Purol et al (US 5,236,816).

Paragraph 7: rejection of claims 4-5 under 35U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 4-5 were rejected as unpatentable over Okada et al.(US-6,120,983), Tsuzuki (US-5,677,121), Tsukada (2002/0058220A1), Winslow et al (US 5,891,615), and Purol et al (US 5,236,816), as applied in paragraph 6, and further in view of Siga (US-4,332,889).

Paragraph 8: rejection of claims 9-11, 15-18 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 9-11, 15-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over the

combination of Okada et al.(US-6,120,983), Winslow et al (US 5,891,615) and Purol et al (US 5,236,816).

The compound having an adsorptive group to silver halide and a reducing group in the present invention is represented by the following formula (I):



wherein, in the formula, A represents a group adsorptive to silver halide, W represents a divalent linking group, n represents 0 or 1, and B represents a reducible group, wherein the group adsorptive to silver halide is a heterocyclic group substituted by a mercapto group, a heterocyclic group substituted by two mercapto groups, or a nitrogen atom containing heterocyclic group having a $-NH-$ group capable to form an imino-silver ($>N\bar{A}g$) as a partial structure of heterocyclic ring, and the reducible group is 3-pyrazolidone group.

The compound having an adsorptive group to silver halide and a reducing group in the present invention has effects in photothermographic material to achieve high sensitivity with low fogging, and excellent image stability, such as decreased print-out.

Okada discloses a compound of the formula: $X-L_1-D$, wherein D is an electron donative group, X is an adsorption promoting group, and L_1 is a valence bond or linking group in columns 12-20, and compounds 1 to 55. The electron donative group represented by D is preferably an amino group, a hydrazino group, a hydroxylamino group, a hydroxamic acid group, a semicarbazido group or a hydroxyl-semicarbazido. More preferably, D is an amino group, a hydrazino group or a semicarbazido group (column 5, lines 1-8). Okada does not disclose a compound having a 3-pyrazolidone group as an electron donative group.

The compound of formula $X-L_1-D$ in Okada is a super-sensitizer which ensures sufficient super-sensitization effects in the red to infrared region, especially in the

practically advantageous infrared region in the range of 750nm to 1400nm (column 3, lines 10-14, column 28, lines 19-20).

Tsuzuki, Siga and Tsukada also do not disclose or suggest the compound having an adsorption group to silver halide and a reducing group in the present invention.

Winslow discloses a 3-pyrazolydones as reducing agent as reducing agent for organic silver salt. Purol discloses phenidones as super-additive developing agent contained in developing solution at conventional wet-processing photography.

In Winslow or Purol, 3-pyrazolydone is an independent molecule.

On the contrary, the compound having an adsorptive group to silver halide and a reducing group in the present invention has 3-pyrazolydone group as one partial part of a molecule.

A declaration under 37C.F.R.1.132 is provided herewith. The results obtained by the additional experiments set forth in the declaration demonstrate that 3-pyrazolydone contained in the image forming layer resulted in increase of fog without increase of sensitivity, and degradation in image stability. It is clearly understood that 3-pyrazolydone as a molecule has no effect of the compound having an adsorptive group to silver halide and a reducing group in the present invention.

Therefore, Winslow or Purol does not disclose or suggest the compound having an adsorptive group to silver halide and a reducing group in the present invention.

Consequently, none of Okada, Tsuzuki, Tsukada, Winslow and Purol discloses the compound having an adsorptive group to silver halide and a reducing group in the present invention. Therefore, any combination of Okada, Tsuzuki, Tsukada, Winslow or Purol does result in the present invention.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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